

The story of those aboard the Exodus 1947 and their harrowing journey to Haifa was immortalized in Leon Uris's novel *Exodus* and subsequent film featuring the character Ari Ben-Canaan based on Harel himself and played by Paul Newman.

Though Harel is best known for commanding *Exodus 1947*, he also led three other ships to the shores of Israel, helping 24,000 refugees find safe harbor in the Promised Land—all by the time he was 28.

Today we mourn the loss of a great hero, who not only touched the lives of these 24,000 refugees and won the admiration of millions of people worldwide, but also came to symbolize the determination and pluck of the modern state of Israel.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES  
MEADERS

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, A man name Charles Meaders from Newton, Mississippi had a soldier's heart, a soldier's honor, and responded to our Nation's call with a soldier's duty. He passed away last month but due to a twist of fate, he did not receive soldier's burial.

Mr. Meaders was in the United States Armed Forces during the Korean conflict. However, he contracted a serious case of pneumonia and was shipped home and discharged, short of the time required to be recognized for veterans' benefits. I've known the Meaders family for a long time and they are educators, soldiers, and hard working Mississippians. Mrs. Bobbie Meaders, who dearly loved her husband Charles, is an active and feisty 72-year-old former nurse.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the memory of Charles Meaders and for my office to deliver to his wife her only request, a proper American flag that memorializes her husband's service to the American armed forces. I hope Congress joins me and remembering this patriot and will hold Mrs. Bobbie Meaders in your thoughts during her time of grief.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, May 5, 2008, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 952, the vote to table the motion to reconsider H. Res. 952, H. Res. 1011, the vote to table the motion to reconsider H. Res. 1011, and the motion to adjourn and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall #240 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 952, to establish a National Teacher's Day, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall #241 on tabling the motion to reconsider the vote on H. Res. 952, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall #242 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 1011, Calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace and good governance in Chad, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall #243 on tabling the motion to reconsider the vote on H. Res. 1011, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall #244 on the motion to adjourn, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2008  
SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I want to congratulate the 2008 Service Academy appointees from the 21st Congressional District. The following individuals have accepted academy appointments:

Harrison Michael Green, Believers Academy, Air Force Academy; Blair William Kessler, Boerne High School, Air Force Academy; Robert Francis Belz, Health Careers High School, Air Force Academy; Lucas Samuel Johnson, Boerne High School, Air Force Academy; Philip Nicholas Valenzo, MacArthur High School, Air Force Academy; David Kirby Ford, Antonian College Preparatory High School, Military Academy; Nicholas Enrique Ocegueda, New Braunfels High School/US Military Prep School, Military Academy; Thomas Reagan Schiller, Vista Ridge High School, Military Academy; Raymond Anthony Gonzales II, Reagan High School, Military Academy; Karen Elaine Gilkey, MacArthur High School, Merchant Marine Academy; and Padraig G. O'Hara, Fredericksburg High School, Merchant Marine Academy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DEAN HELLER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 240, H. Res. 952—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers in the United States, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THOMAS S. CONLEY,  
SR. OF DADE CITY, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who was wounded in service

to our Nation during the conflict in Vietnam. Mr. Thomas S. Conley, Sr. is a Marine who served with honor and distinction on the battlefield. It is truly an honor to present this brave patriot with his long overdue Purple Heart Medal.

Born in Wheeling, West Virginia, Mr. Conley's family moved to Pittsburgh when he was in ninth grade. Enlisting in the Marine Corps at the age of eighteen, Mr. Conley was one of about seventy-eight enlistees dubbed the "Pittsburgh Pirate Platoon" when, all gathered around home plate for the ceremony, they were sworn into the Marines in the 7th inning of a baseball game at Forbes Field.

After completing his basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina, Mr. Conley went on to attend radio operator school in California and then served as the 2531 Field Radio Operator with the 9th Marines in Vietnam. Near the end of his tour of duty, his unit was near the Rock Pile in the Northern Eye Core of Vietnam when a mortar round landed between Mr. Conley and another soldier. The other man was thrown twenty-three feet and killed, while Mr. Conley ended up with shrapnel throughout his body.

A third generation soldier whose grandfather served in World War I and his father in World War II, Mr. Conley's wounds sadly forced him to leave the military. He had planned to make a career in the Marines, but after the blast injured him in Vietnam he returned to Bethesda Naval Hospital where he remained for thirteen months prior to being discharged. Continuing the tradition of military service, Mr. Conley's three sons have all served in the Marine Corps, and one has had four tours of duty in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like Thomas S. Conley, Sr. who joined the military to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear. While brave men like Mr. Conley were wounded fighting for freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones know that this Congress will always remember his bravery and commitment in battle.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF  
DONALD L. ROBINSON

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I would like to use this opportunity today to pay tribute to a great American who just recently and unexpectedly passed away.

Donald Robinson worked in the Office of Naval Intelligence and as a Chief of Staff and Staff Director on Capitol Hill in his younger years, but he is perhaps remembered best as a mentor to the hundreds of young people who came to Washington, DC to pursue an internship on Capitol Hill or with the Federal Government.

For 25 years, Donald L. Robinson worked with his wife, Sara Robinson, as a Director of the Boston University Washington Internship Program.

Madam Speaker, I pay tribute to the contribution he and his wife Sara made to enrich the lives of young people in who came to Washington to try out public service. He will be missed greatly. I would like to take the opportunity to submit his obituary in the Congressional Record today and to thank him for